

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Tom Cox

Phone: 913-593-7464

Political Affiliation: Republican

Email: tomhcox3@gmail.com

District: 17

Campaign Website: www.tom-cox.org

Address/City/State/Zip:

Campaign Video Link: N/A

13510 W 72nd St
Shawnee, KS 66216

Occupation/Work History (last five years – 25 words or less):

(2012-2017)VP - SPMI - Oversaw billion \$ real estate portfolio, (Current) Small business owner

If you are or have been affiliated with a chamber of commerce or other business organization please list which organization(s) and any leadership positions you have held:

An active attendee at Shawnee and Lenexa chamber of commerce

Other recent political/community experience (25 words or less):

Lenexa Rotary, Current state rep

As a candidate, what are your top three policy issues? (10 words or less per issue)

1) Education (both K-12 and higher ed) 2) Business-friendly regulatory environment 3) Transparency in government

What are your views on state tax policy, being as specific as you can? (100 words or less)

I think we have an overall good and strong tax policy. I voted to restore income tax brackets to a more balanced level in 2017. We need to look at ways to lower food sales tax as we are 2nd highest in the nation. Additionally, we need to look at how federal tax changes affect our state and review any changes we may need to make.

With record low unemployment rates, what would you do to grow and develop the state's workforce? (75 words or less)

We need to keep more Kansans in Kansas. Our biggest export is educated people. We need to find ways to make them want to stay here. We need to focus more on vocational training as well to fill the high demand for those roles in KS.

What are your views on funding K-12 education? (75 words or less)

We have traditionally been underfunded and are finally on a path to fix that. I believe we will wrap that up next session! It is a top priority for me as I know it is for my district.

What would your priorities be in any new statewide transportation plan? (50 words or less)

Ensuring that many of those projects are here in JoCo as well. We have many needs (fixing I-25 around 75th street, expanding lanes on 69 highway) among many others. I will fight for projects here where 1/5 of the state population lives.

Do you support maintaining the current dedicated sales tax transfer to the State Highway Fund for the purpose of funding transportation infrastructure, or should transportation be subject to the appropriations process where legislators determine funding levels entirely? (50 words or less)

Keep it as is. If we changed that, there would probably be no money for roads at this point. Gotta project that funding.

What types of economic development policies will you support to encourage job growth and business expansion in Kansas? (50 words or less)

More vocational training Keeping STAR Bonds program Rebuilding department of commerce Allowing local governments to have the tools they need to recruit businesses

What are your views on the state's role regarding immigration and do you support employment-based immigration reforms to assist with workforce shortages in specified industries? (50 words or less)

Absolutely. Especially in western KS, we need help working on farms and there are people willing to come work. You have high skilled individuals willing to come here for work in all sorts of fields that can't get here. We need reform.

What are your views on the state's role with respect to access and affordability of public higher education? (50 words or less)

We need to properly fund higher ed so tuition doesn't get more outrageous.

What are your views on healthcare policy and Medicaid expansion? (50 words or less)

I support Medicaid expansion. I voted twice to expand. Will continue supporting it

What role should state government have in determining workplace employment practices and benefits offered to employees? (50 words or less)

I am not sure I entirely understand the question, but I tend to lean that we should let businesses decide their own practices for benefits and practices.

What do you believe is the most pressing issue or challenge facing Kansas today and how would you address it? (50 words or less)

The most challenging continues to be funding education and resolving the long-standing court case. I believe they have outlined a clear path to solve it now.

What project have you been most proud to work on? (50 words or less)

The Dyslexia Taskforce bill. I believe we will see wide reform on this issue next year that will make a huge difference in the lives of those with dyslexia.

What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race? (75 words or less)

I have 2 years of experience, relationships, and understanding of the process. I believe I can be a very effective legislator going into a second term. I believe there is a chance I could get a chairmanship or at least vice-chair position, allowing me to be even more effective in that arena.